

GRAY

Appl. No. 09/486,183

November 5, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (*Cancelled*)

12. (*New*) A method of producing a fiber reinforced composite by pultrusion having variable strength characteristics along its length including the steps of drawing through a pultrusion die a series of reinforcing fibers to form a pultruded fiber composite product characterised by incorporating in the reinforcing fibers prior to the pultrusion step additional fibers in order to vary the strength characteristics of the final product substantially without altering the cross-sectional area thereof, a plastics matrix material being applied around the fibers and allowed to solidify to form the finished composite.

13. (*New*) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers have a characteristic different from that of the said reinforcing fibers.

14. (*New*) A method according to claim 13 in which the said characteristic is selected from the group fiber tenacity and fiber modulus.

15. (*New*) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are spliced between discrete lengths of the reinforcing fibers.

16. (*New*) A method according to claim 12 in which the additional fibers are interlaced amongst continuous said reinforcing fibers.

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17. (New) A method according to claim 12 in which the plastics matrix material is applied to the fibers, within the die.

18. (New) A method according to claim 12 in which the fibers are pre-impregnated with a plastics matrix material before being drawn through the die.

19. (New) A method according to claim 12 in which the fibers are in the form of a woven web.

20. (New) A method according to claim 12 in which the fibers are in the form of a non-woven web.

21. (New) A composite structural member produced according to the method of claim 12.

22. (New) A composite structural member according to claim 21 comprising an aircraft skin stringer.

23. (New) An aircraft airfoil incorporating a composite structural member according to claim 21.

24. (New) An aircraft containing a composite produced according to the method of claims 12.